

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ARA-06 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1871

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY VIENTIENNE

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 4863

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, VN, CA

SUBJ: VIETNAMESE STILL SEARCHING FOR EMBASSY QUARTERS
IN OTTAWA

REF: OTTAWA 4020

1. FOUR-MAN VIETNAMESE ADVANCE TEAM HAS BEEN IN
OTTAWA SINCE NOV 17 SEARCHING FOR SUITABLE EMBASSY
BUILDING. EMBOFF DEC 8 RECEIVED FOLLOWING INFORMA-
TION REGARDING THEIR ACTIVITIES FROM HANCOCK, VIETNAM
DESK OFFICER, DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

2. PARTY CONSISTS OF LUONG MANH TUAN, CHARGE;
NGUYEN QUANG THAI, ATTACHE; LE LUONG MINH,
TRANSLATOR; LE VAN CHUC, ADMINISTRATION. THE FOUR
WILL REMAIN IN OTTAWA AS STAFF MEMBERS WHEN EMBASSY
ESTABLISHED. EXTAFF OFFICIALS HAVE NOT YET HAD
DETAILED DISCUSSIONS WITH VIETNAMESE ON PERMISSIBLE
NUMBER OF EMBASSY COMPLEMENT. HANCOCK MERELY NOTED
THAT THE SIZE MUST BE "IN KEEPING WITH THE NATURE
OF BILATERAL RELATIONS" AND ADDED THAT GOC HAS
NOT YET DECIDED ON EXACT NUMERICAL LIMIT.
VIETNAMESE HAVE NOT PROPOSED TO GOC NAME OF
AMBASSADOR. COMMENT: AS INDICATED IN REFTEL,
ONE EXTAFF CONCERN REGARDING SIZE OF EMBASSY
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COMPLEMENT IS POTENTIAL FOR STIRRING UP TROUBLE

IN VIETNAMESE COMMUNITY WHICH NUMBERS ABOUT SIX THOUSAND IN CANADA. END COMMENT.

3. TUAN, WHO WAS FORMERLY CANADIAN DESK OFFICER AT FOREIGN MINISTRY IN HANOI, HOLDS SECOND SECRETARY RANK BUT IS, ACCORDING TO HANCOCK, POISED AND ENTIRELY IN CONTROL OF FREQUENTLY COMPLEX ADVANCE WORK. HE SPEAKS ENGLISH AS DOES MINH, THE TRANSLATOR, BUT THAI AND CHUC APPARENTLY HAVE LITTLE ENGLISH AND SURPRISINGLY LITTLE FRENCH. ALL FOUR APPARENTLY ARE FROM NORTH.

4. GROUP IS SEEKING TO PURCHASE A SINGLE RESIDENCE SET APART FROM ADJOINING BUILDINGS. THEIR LACK OF SUCCESS TO DATE MAY BE DUE TO FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS. OTTAWA REAL ESTATE IS EXPENSIVE AT APPROXIMATELY SAME LEVEL AS WASHINGTON, D.C. AND VIETNAMESE APPARENTLY ARE ON A TIGHT BUDGET, ACCORDING TO HANCOCK.

5. CUBAN EMBASSY HERE HAS BEEN CLOSEST TO AND MOST COOPERATIVE IN ASSISTING VIETNAMESE GROUP. IT HAS, FOR EXAMPLE, LOANED THEM EMBASSY VEHICLE. RUSSIAN EMBASSY HAS GIVEN LESSER DEGREE OF ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT AND, TO BEST OF HANCOCK'S KNOWLEDGE, CHINESE HAVE CONTRIBUTED NOTHING. RUSSIANS AND WARSAW PACT COUNTRY EMBASSY PERSONNEL TURNED OUT AT AIRPORT TO GREET VIETNAMESE, BUT CHINESE AND YUGOSLAVS WERE ABSENT.

6. EXTAFF ASSISTANCE TO THE VIETNAMESE HAS BEEN LIMITED TO SUGGESTIONS OF REAL ESTATE AGENTS AND LAWYERS AS WELL AS "SCREENING" THEIR TELEPHONE CALLS, LAST ITEM AT VIETNAMESE REQUEST ACCORDING TO HANCOCK. THE VIETNAMESE HAVE NOT RAISED SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES SUCH AS POSSIBLE GOC AID (REFTEL).

7. GOC DOES NOT INTEND TO ESTABLISH EMBASSY IN HANOI BECAUSE OF CURRENT GOC AUSTERITY MEASURES. CONFIDENTIAL

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CANADIAN AMBASSADOR MENZIES, RESIDENT IN PEKING AND ACCREDITED TO HANOI, WILL PRESENT CREDENTIALS IN HANOI SOMETIME AFTER JANUARY 15. FOREIGNERS, HANCOCK SAID, ARE NOT BEING ALLOWED TO ENTER HANOI BETWEEN NOV 15 AND JAN 15. STATED REASON IS LACK OF HOTEL SPACE BUT HANCOCK EXPLAINED THAT REAL REASON IS PARTY CONVENTION TAKING PLACE DURING THAT PERIOD.

8. HANCOCK TOLD EMBOFF IN CONFIDENCE THAT GOC
INTENDS TO PUT SAME TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS ON
VIETNAMESE THAT PERTAIN TO CHINESE EMBASSY
OFFICIALS HERE. THEY WILL BE REQUIRED TO GIVE
48 HOUR NOTICE OF INTENTION TO TRAVEL OUTSIDE
OF OTTAWA.
ENDERS

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